THE WORD OF GOD

A BIBLE STUDY COURSE FOR CORRESPONDENCE STUDY

Dear Student,

It is a joy to offer you this course of the Word of God. Your textbook is the Gospel according to Saint John. It relates the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope the course will please you and be a help to your life.

The course has a section of corresponding exams for you to answer. You may submit your exam sheets by mail to the person offering this correspondence study. May God bless you as you read His word.

If you wish to complete this as an interactive correspondence study:

Start with Lesson 1 & Exam 1. Keep the Lesson 1 sheet, and mail in your Exam 1 sheet for review to the address below. Include your return mail address, and we will mail your completed exam 1 sheet with any comments or corrections, and send you your next Lesson and Exam. Mail all correspondence (either US Postal Service or email) to:

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Lesson 1

When God Came to the World

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 1 through 18.

2. Read the lesson on this page.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 1.

In this book John tells about the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of God came to this world to speak to men about His Father. Christ is called the Word of God because God speaks to man through Christ as His spokesman. When we listen to the voice of Christ in this book, we are listening to the Word of God.

BEFORE THE COMING OF THE WORD OF GOD, verses 1-5

We do not know the exact date when the world was made. This occurred a long time ago. Before this, the Word was with God. The Word is also called the Son of God. From the beginning, the Word was with God.

No one made God. He did not have a beginning. God did not make the Son. The Word which in the beginning was God, is also called the Son of God. God made all things. All things seen and all things not seen were made by God. Everything was made by God the Son, verse 3. In this manner, we see that God did not create the Son and that the Son made all things that exist.

The word is also called Light because He shows or reveals to men the way to God.

WHEN THE WORD OF GOD CAME TO THE WORLD, verses 6-18

When a great king thinks of making a trip, he sends a servant or a representative ahead to announce his coming. When God sent the Word to this world, John the Baptist was sent ahead to tell the people of the coming of the Son of God, verse 6. John was not the Light but was sent to testify of that Light. He wanted everyone to believe in Christ.

The world was made by Christ, the Son of God. Nevertheless, when He came to the world, His own people did not receive Him or recognize Him. However, those who did receive Him and those who receive Him now are made the sons of God. To experience or receive the new birth as a son of God, it is necessary to receive Christ. This is believing on His Name. All those who believe on His name are given the power to be sons of God, verse 12. Even though one's parents are sons of God, this does not make their child a son of God. One cannot make himself a Son of God. There is no one on earth who can make one a child of God. Only by believing and receiving Christ is one made a son of God.

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26).

"Being born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (I Peter 1:23).

"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13).

Lesson 2

The Disciples of Christ

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 19 through chapter 2, verse 25.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 2.

In the first lesson we saw that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is also the Word of God and the Light. By receiving Him and believing in Him, one is made a son of God.

JOHN SPEAKS TO PEOPLE ABOUT CHRIST, chapter 1, verses 19-34

Some men were sent from Jerusalem to ask John if he were the Christ. His answer was: "I am the voice" (v.23). He said that he had come only to proclaim Christ to men. The next day John saw Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." (v.29). To take away sin, Christ had to die as a lamb. He gave His life so that we would not have to die for our sins. It is for this reason that John called Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. He knew that Christ was the Son of God (v.34).

THE FIRST DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, chapter 1, verses 35-51

When John said that Jesus could take away sins, some wanted to follow Christ. Jesus received them joyfully (v. 39). One of those was Andrew. He brought Simon Peter to Christ (verses 41 and 42).

The next day Christ saw Philip and said: "Follow me." Philip invited Nathanael to come and see Christ. Nathanael recognized that Christ was the Son of God and the King of Israel. These men heard the call of Christ and followed Him.

THE FIRST SIGN, chapter 2.

Jesus, His mother, Mary, and His disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus took water and changed it to wine. Mary could not do this and told His disciples, "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it" (v.5). Jesus did this miracle as a sign to His disciples that He was the Son of God. Later, He performed many more miracles.

The Lord then went to the Temple and drove out those who were doing business in the Temple of God. He told them that He would give His life and then be resurrected. Many said that they believed in His name (v. 23), but He knew the hearts of each one. If you will truly believe in Christ as the Son of God and the Lamb of God, He will receive you, making you a son of God.

Lesson 3

A Good Man and A Sinner Woman

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapters 3 and 4.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 3.

The Son of God came to the world to help mankind. He did great miracles so that all would know that He came from God. He spoke to all of the love of God and how they could be saved.

A RULER OF THE JEWS, chapter 3

Nicodemus was a very good man. He was a religious teacher in Israel and a ruler of the Jews. He prayed every day and gave to the poor. He believed that these things would please God. But Jesus, the Word of God, said, "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." We have seen in previous lessons that a person is made a son of God when be believes in Christ and receives Him as his Savior. This is called the new birth because it occurs at a later and a different time after our physical birth into this world.

Nicodemus could not understand this. However, Jesus spoke to him of the love of God and he accepted it. Verse 16 tells us that the love of God is so great that He gave His One and Only Son for our sins. Whoever believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God receives eternal life. It makes no difference how good or how religious a person may be or may have been, he needs to be born again. God loves you and gave His Son so that you might have life in Him. Why not believe this truth and receive Him as your own personal Savior?

John the Baptist wanted all to follow Christ. Always, He glorified or gave glory to Christ. Verse 36 tells us that God manifests Himself against all who do not believe His Son.

A SINFUL WOMAN ACCEPTS CHRIST, chapter 4

After this, Christ went to Samaria. He was tired and asked a woman to give Him water to drink. In the beginning, she was not very cordial. He told her that He could give her living water. She wanted the water of life but first had to understand that she was a sinner (v. 18). Until a person recognizes his need, he cannot come to Christ for help. Jesus told her that He was the Christ (verses 25 and 26). She immediately went and told others that she had found Christ, the Savior.

A man came to Christ and begged Him to heal his son (v. 47). The man truly believed that Christ could meet his son's need, and the Lord healed him. The Son of God loves all people and gave His life that they might be saved.

Would you like to experience the new birth? Would you not like to have the Water of Life?

Lesson 4

Christ Helps People

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapters 5 and 6.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 4

We have seen that the Son of God came to the world to do the will of God. God loves everyone. Christ desires to help all. In this lesson, Christ helped a man who had been sick 38 years and afterward fed 5,000 men.

A MAN SICK FOR 38 YEARS, chapter 5

Many sick people were near a pool, waiting for a moving of the water. There was one who could not walk and who had waited a long time because he did not have anyone to help him. However, the Son of God gave him strength to take up his bed and walk away alone.

This caused him to rejoice, but the Jews were very upset that the healing had taken place on Saturday, the Sabbath, the Jewish holy day. It is good today to observe Sunday as the Lord's day and not work, but the Son of God is always ready to do good at any moment of any day and in any place. Jesus answered that He was doing what He had seen His Father do (v.19). The Father loves His Son and gives Him power to raise the dead and to judge all men (v.20-22).

John bore witness of the truth of Christ (v. 33). The works that Christ did prove that He was the Son of God (v. 36). God the Father also has testified that Christ was His Son and the Savior (v.37). And more yet, the Scriptures also back up the fact that Christ is the Son of God and the Savior (v. 38 and 39). Those who do not believe in Christ as the Son of God cannot be saved.

CHRIST FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND, chapter 6

When the people were without food, Christ took five barley loaves and two small fish and multiplied them so there was plenty for all. When the people saw this miracle, they said that He was a prophet and they tried forcefully to make Him King. Many today are ready to follow Christ if they can receive material or monetary blessings. However, Christ does not receive those who are hypocrites or have selfish motives or reasons.

Afterward Christ walked on the water (v.19). no one can do such miracles without God. For this reason, we should listen and heed the words of Christ to the people. Only the Son of God can give us eternal life (verses 35 and 47). Some Jews wanted the Bread of Life (v. 34), but when Jesus spoke hard, they did not continue (verses 60 and 66). Jesus then asked His disciples if they would turn back also. Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou, hast the words of eternal life" (v. 68). "And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 69). Even though there are many things you do not yet understand, believe on Him and you will have eternal life.

Lesson 5

The Water of Life and The Light of Life

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapters 7 and 8.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 5.

Christ showed the Jews by His great miracles, that He was the Son of God. Nevertheless, when they did not understand some of His words, they were not ready to believe on Him.

CHRIST GIVES THE WATER OF LIFE, chapter 7

Christ's brothers (latter sons of Joseph and Mary) did not believe in Him in the beginning (v. 5). He did not go to the feast with them. When Jesus went to the Temple, He taught (v. 14). Jesus said, "If any man will do His will, he shall know the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (v. 17). This is still the truth today! You can know and do the will of God!

On the last day of the feast, Christ said He would give Water of Life to all who came to Him (v. 37). He also said that if anyone believed on Him, rivers of living water would flow from that person to others. No one can really be happy without Christ. If you believe in Him, you can speak to others about eternal life also.

Some believed that Jesus was only a prophet, not the Christ. The Pharisees wanted to arrest him. But when they heard His words, they said, "Never man spake like this man." Do you like what Christ has said? Believe in the Son of God now!

CHRIST GIVES LIGHT TO THE WORLD, chapter 8

The Pharisees brought an adulterous woman to Jesus. By reason of her sin, they wanted to kill her with stones. Christ responded by saying, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Jesus was the only one present without sin, but He did not condemn her. He did not come to condemn but to save, and He said to the woman, "Go and sin no more."

Afterward, He said, "I am the Light of the World." True light makes us see our sins and shows us the way to Heaven. We cannot go to Heaven unless our sins are taken away. Christ shows us our sin but is ready to take away our sin. You can know that your sin has been taken away.

He that sins is a servant of sin (v. 34). We cannot but sin. We need power not to sin. Christ said, "The truth shall make you free" (v. 32). The Bible gives us the truth of God and speaks of the Son of God. You are a sinner. Believe the truth and receive the Son. You will be made free!

Lesson 6

The Blind Man and The Good Shepherd

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapters 9 and 10.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 6.

We have seen that Christ Jesus is the Word, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, and the Light of the World. In chapter 9, He gives light to a man born blind.

A BLIND MAN RECEIVES SIGHT, chapter 9

A man blind from birth had never been able to see anything. A sinner cannot see the glory of God. He cannot find the way to God. He needs light. When Christ gave sight to the blind man, his friends would not believe it. They said that Jesus was a sinner because He healed on the Sabbath (v. 16 and 24). The man was sure he had received light and that Jesus had come from God (v. 33). The healed man was then put out of the synagogue.

Christ went to the man to help him and revealed to him that Christ was the Son of God (v. 35-37). The Pharisees continued in their darkness, believing that Christ was only a man.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVES HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP, chapter 10

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who keeps and feeds His sheep. There are many who want to steal and scatter the sheep (v. 10 and 11). The Good Shepherd cares for and protects His sheep.

Christ was ready to give His life for the sheep (v. 11). He died on the cross for our sins. The Father loves Him because He gave His life for us (v. 17). Christ has the power to give His life and the power to take it again. His sheep are those who hear His voice and follow Him (v. 27).

You can be one of His sheep if you wll listen to His voice in the Gospel and respond. If you will respond, you will possess eternal life, and no one can take you from the Father's hand (v. 28,29). Christ and His Father are one.

The Jews did not believe in the Good Shepherd; but many followed Christ (v. 42). It is the same today. Many people hear and read the words of Christ. Some believe and are saved. Others will not believe and for this reason are lost.

Lesson 7

Lazarus and Mary

Student Instructions:

1. Read John, chapters 11 and 12.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 7.

The Son of God is the Good Shepherd. He gave His life for the sheep. They hear His voice and follow Him. He gives eternal life to all who believe in Him.

THE SON OF GOD RAISES A MAN FROM THE DEAD, chapter 11

In the town of Bethany there were two sisters, Mary and Martha. Lazarus, their brother, became sick and died (v. 4). Martha and Mary knew if Jesus had been there their brother would not have died (v. 21 and 32). Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Christ went to the grave of Lazarus and spoke in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." In this way Lazarus received life, rose and came out of the tomb before them. Many of the Jews then believed on Him but the Pharisees still would not.

All men are sinners. They are dead in sin and do not have life. Only the Son can give life. One day, all men will come forth from the dead to stand before God. It will then be too late for salvation. Now is the time to be saved.

SOME MEN GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD JESUS, chapter 12

It was natural for Mary and Martha to love the Lord Jesus because He had resurrected their brother. They made a supper in honor of Christ, and Mary anointed His feet with special ointment. Judas, a thief, and one of the twelve disciples, criticized what Mary did (v.5).

Afterward, Christ went to Jerusalem. Many people took branches of palm trees and received Christ in the streets and honored Him (v. 12-16). Some Greeks also came to see Christ. Christ told the crowd that it was necessary for Him to die (v. 24). God spoke from Heaven verifying that Christ was His Son and that He was being glorified through Him (v. 28).

Others believed in Him but were afraid of the Pharisees and did not confess Him (v. 42). They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God (v. 43). God sent His Son to the world and Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on Him that sent me..." (v.44). Would you believe on Him now?

Lesson 8

Christ Teaches His Disciples

Student Instructions:

1. Read John, chapters 13 and 14.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 8.

The Son of God knows all things. He knows the hearts of all those who believe in Him. He also knows everything that will happen afterward. Christ knows God and can show men the way to God.

CHRIST RETURNS TO HEAVEN, chapter 13

Christ had come from God and was to return to Him (v. 3). Nevertheless, He was ready to take the place of a servant and wash the feet of His disciples.

Christ gave His life and His blood to cleanse us from our sins. In verse 10, He said that whoever has been washed is clean all over. Then in verse 15, Christ said that we should serve each other as He has given us example.

The son of God knew who was going to betray Him and turn Him over to those who would kill Him. This was Judas, one of the disciples. John, another disciple, wanted to know who it was. He replied that it was to be the one to whom He gave a piece of bread (v. 26). Peter said that he would give his life for Christ. Christ answered that Peter would soon deny Him (v. 38).

CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN, chapter 14

When the Lord told the disciples that He would die, they became sad. Then He told them not to be troubled and that He would come again (v. 3).

In verse 6, the Son of God says that He is the only way to Heaven. He adds that no one can come to the Father except by Him. The only way to come to the Father, is through Christ, as He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. There is no other way. Christ prayed to the Father to send the Holy Spirit to fill those who had believed in Him. Afterward He imparted to them his peace (v. 27).

God is angry because of sin. However, if you receive Christ, God pardons your sins. Then instead of fear, there will be perfect peace in your heart and life. Come to Christ now!

Lesson 9

The True Vine

Student Instructions:

1. Read John, chapters 15 and 16.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 9.

HOW TO BE CLEAN, chapter 15

Jesus is like a vine or tree trunk that gives life to the branches. However, in order to be close to Christ, it is necessary to be clean. Sin contaminates and defiles our heart, and God hates sin. How then can we be close to Christ?

In verse 3, we read that we can be made clean through the Word. Christ teaches many things about God in the Gospel of John. Remember that He is called the Word of God in chapter 1. These lessons and the Gospel of John will help you to know that the Word of God makes you clean.

In verse 13, we find that no one has greater love than he who gives his life for his friends. There are not many people who would be willing to give their lives for a friend. And an even more rare thing, Christ gave His life for His enemies. The love of Christ is greater than the love of any human.

In spite of all this, many people hate God and are against His Son. He that is against God is against Christ. Christ is the only begotten Son of God and the only way to God the Father.

CHRIST TEACHES THE DISCIPLES, chapter 16

The work of the Holy Spirit is to comfort or console those who believe in Christ (v.7). The work of the Holy Spirit is also to make the world recognize sin (v. 8). If you realize that you are a sinner, believe in Christ now.

The Father has given all things to the Son (v. 15). For this reason, we know that God loves the Son. As a result, to receive Christ is to receive God, to reject Christ is to reject God.

Again in verse 28, the Lord says clearly that He has come from the Father and would return to the Father. Christ is the only Son of God, and He is the only Savior of the world. The disciples believed that Christ knew all things and had come from God (v. 30). Do you believe this?

Lesson 10

Christ Prays For His Disciples

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapter 17.

2. Read this lesson.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 10.

In this chapter we find the words that Christ prayed to God His Father (v. 11).

WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US, verses 1-8.

God has given power to His Son, so that Christ might give eternal life (v. 2). God has not given this power to any other. Only Christ can give us life. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Savior, Jesus Christ, whom God has sent (v. 3). You can know Christ by the Word and have eternal life.

In order to give us life, Christ had to give His own life. God established that because of sin all had to die. We can do nothing to save ourselves. Christ has done the work and finished everthing that was necessary to accomplish our salvation (v. 4). God loved us so much that He put this work on His Son.

God the Father gave words to Christ to deliver to us (v. 8). Christ is the Word of God and came to the world to tell us of the love of God. The disciples received the words which Christ delivered. They believed that Christ came from the Father.

WHAT CHRIST IS DOING FOR US NOW, verses 9-21.

Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead. Afterward, He returned to the Father in Heaven. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father in majesty and glory. What does Christ do now? When we finish work, we usually rest. Jesus Christ is now praying for those who have believed in Him (v. 9). He never tires or needs rest. Christ prays day and night without ceasing for His own. We do not need someone else to pray for us. We do not need a man or woman to intercede for us. We do not need to confess our sins to a human being, but to God. Only God can forgive sin. Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and mankind.

WHAT CHRIST WILL DO FOR US, verses 22-26.

Christ loved us and died for us. Without a doubt, He wants us to be with Him where He is. In verse 24, Christ prays that we might be with Him. Fellowship with Christ will not be complete until we are together. Christ is coming back for us to take us with Him into the presence of the Father. Dear Friend, if you have never received Christ as your only, all sufficient, personal Savior, you have no part with the Father and the Son. Why not receive Christ today?

Lesson 11

Christ on the Way to the Cross

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapters 18 and 19.

2. Read this lesson carefully.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 11.

This lesson brings to us the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps you have asked yourself why would one like the Son of God have to die. We have seen that the Son of God was made flesh. He became a man so that He might die for men.

CHRIST BEFORE HUMAN JUDGES, chapter 18, verses 1-27.

After interceding for the disciples, Christ went to a garden to pray again. Judas negotiated with some priests to deliver Christ into their hands. The Lord Jesus did not resist or try to flee. He surrendered voluntarily to those who came to arrest Him.

While Christ was being interrogated, Peter denied the Lord three times (verses 17, 25, 27).

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE, chapter 18, verse 18 through chapter 19 verse 16.

The Jews wanted to kill Christ but did not have the authority to do so. Pilate was the Roman judge over Israel and had the authority. Pilate, after interviewing Christ, was convinced that Christ was without fault and wanted to free Him. However, the people wanted the death of Christ. They cried for the release of Barabbas, a robber (verse 40).

CHRIST DIES ON THE CROSS, chapter, 19, verses 17-42.

Christ was taken outside the city. His hands and feet were nailed to a cross. While in agony and suffering on the cross, He remembered His mother and made provision for her (verses 26-28). Finally He cried out, “It is finished” (verse 30), and He gave up the spirit. A soldier came and pierced His side with a spear. Later, Joseph of Arimathea presented himself to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Nicodemus came and helped Joseph prepare Christ’s body for burial and put it in a new tomb in a nearby garden.

We have seen how Judas helped those who hated Jesus; how the Jews wanted the death of Jesus, and how Pilate finally turned Him over to the Jews for crucifixion. Are you with those who love Christ or those who hate Him?

Lesson 12

Christ Rises from the Dead

Student Instructions:

1. Read the Gospel of John, chapters 20 and 21.

2. Read this lesson carefully.

3. Answer the questions in Exam 12.

4. Send only the exam section for correction.

The Word of God was made flesh and lived among human beings. He showed the world the love of God but was hated by many. He was taken before a judge and the people shouted for His death. Christ died, but God raised Him from the dead.

MARY MAGDALANE SEES THE LORD, chapter 20, verses 1-18.

Very early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to the place where the body of the Lord had been placed. She saw that the stone had been moved from the entrance. She ran to tell Peter and John that the body was no longer in its place.

The disciples went to their home, and Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping. Jesus spoke to her, but she did not realize it was Him (v. 16).

THE DICIPLES SEE THE LORD, chapter 20, verses 19-31.

The disciples met together in an upper room with the doors closed because they were afraid of the Jews. The Lord Jesus appeared in their midst, showing them that He was alive. He greeted them with the words, “Peace be unto you.” They were very glad. Thomas was not with them at this time and did not believe that the Lord had been resurrected. Eight days later, the Lord appeared to the disciples again. This time Thomas was with them. The Lord presented Himself to Thomas especially, who was smitten because of His unbelief and cried out, “My Lord and my God.”

THE DISCIPLES GO FISHING, chapter 21.

Later the disciples went fishing and fished all night. However, they caught nothing. In the morning, they saw the Lord standing on the shore beside a charcoal fire. He told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship. They caught a lot of fish. Again, they recognized that it was the Lord. Jesus prepared the fish and they ate together.

Afterward, the Lord asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?” three times. Then the Lord told Peter, “Feed my sheep” (v. 15-17).

The disciple John wrote this book (v.24).

Christ also taught and did much more than is recorded in this book (v. 25).

If you believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, you will be saved now and have eternal life.

And Now...

What Follows?

We congratulate you for having finished this course on the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Upon receiving your exams, we will correct them and send you the next course in this series. There are many more courses that we offer that will be of spiritual benefit to you.

This course is the first in a series offered by correspondence by:

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